

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

- 1 1. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a called
2 party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:
4 receiving said call intended for said called party;
5 sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party
6 to said call; and
7 receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of in response to said call
2 disposition election, routing said call to said data terminal via said telephone line so that said
3 calling party may communicate with said called party.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of packetizing telephone voice
2 signals received from said calling party for transmission to said data terminal.
- 1 4. The method of claims 2 further comprising the step of generating telephone voice
2 signals based on packetized speech signals received from said data terminal.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of, in response to said call
2 disposition election, routing said call to a voice mail system.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein in response to said call disposition election, said
2 call is not routed to said data terminal.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said call is terminated.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a message to a
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said message is sent in response to said data
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1 11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a message to said
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1 12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a message to said
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is not invoked.

1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein said call disposition options include one or more
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to
3 a voice mail system.

1 16. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a called
2 party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving said call intended for said called party;

5 sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party
6 to said call;

7 receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call; and

9 in response to said call disposition election, routing said call to said data terminal via
10 said telephone line so that said calling party may communicate with said called party.

1 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of packetizing telephone
2 voice signals received from said calling party for transmission to said data terminal.

1 18. The method of claims 16 further comprising the step of generating telephone
2 voice signals based on packetized speech signals received from said data terminal.

1 19. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of sending a message to a
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein said message is sent in response to said data
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1 21. The method of claim 19 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1 22. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of sending a message to said
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1 23. The method of claim 16 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1 24. The method of claim 16 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1 25. The method of claim 24 wherein said call disposition options include one or more
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to
3 a voice mail system.

1 26. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a called
2 party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving said call intended for said called party;

5 sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party
6 to said call;

7 receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call; and

9 in response to said call disposition election, routing said call to a voice mail system.

1 27. The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of sending a message to a
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1 28. The method of claim 27 wherein said message is sent in response to said data
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1 29. The method of claim 27 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1 30. The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of sending a message to said
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1 31. The method of claim 26 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1 32. The method of claim 26 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1 33. The method of claim 32 wherein said call disposition options include one or more
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to
3 a voice mail system.

1 34. A method of processing a telephone call from a calling party intended for a
2 called party whose telephone line is in use by a data terminal, said data terminal having an
3 established connection to the Internet via said telephone line, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving said call intended for said called party;

5 sending a message to said data terminal via said telephone line to alert the called party
6 to said call;

7 receiving a message from said data terminal via said telephone line, the received
8 message including a call disposition election made by said called party for said call; and

9 in response to said call disposition election, initiating the termination of said call.

1 35. The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of sending a message to a
2 telephone network element used to route calls to said telephone line, said message sent to
3 activate a call forwarding feature for calls intended for said telephone line.

1 36. The method of claim 35 wherein said message is sent in response to said data
2 terminal having an established connection to the Internet via said telephone line.

1 37. The method of claim 35 wherein a call intended for said telephone line is
2 forwarded to another line in response to said telephone line being in use.

1 38. The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of sending a message to said
2 data terminal indicating that an Internet call waiting feature is invoked.

1 39. The method of claim 34 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said
2 telephone line comprises a telephone number of the calling party.

1 40. The method of claim 34 wherein said message sent to said data terminal via said
2 telephone line comprises call disposition options for said call.

1 41. The method of claim 40 wherein said call disposition options include one or more
2 of (i) terminate said call, (ii) connect said call to said data terminal, and (iii) route said call to
3 a voice mail system.

add 91